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Warta Geologi

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Exploring medieval adits in a copper mine using ground-penetrating radar imaging (GPR)

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Abstract: The Wilhelmine mine, roughly located in the center of Germany, has produced copper and other ores during the past five centuries, though in an on-off mode. Short periods of mining activity were interrupted by longer idle time intervals. Consequently, only the last phase of mining is reasonably well known. Since April 2017 we explored the area of the mine using outcrop geology measurements and ground penetrating radar from (a) frontal open-cast cliff b) from inside the mine and (c) meadows above the roof of the mining area. This way it was possible to construct a nearly three-dimensional picture using relatively simple software applications to integrate geological, geophysical and historical data. The GPR work indicates previously unknown adits at 6-7 m, and again at 12-14 m and occasionally 18 m beneath the surface.

Keywords: GPR, geophysics, mining, copper, exploration, medieval, Wilhelmine

INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY OF THE MINE

The old copper mine Wilhelmine is located in the Spessart region, roughly in the center of Germany. During the last episode of mining, copper ore from 23 m, 32 m and 40 m adit levels was extracted. The mine is now a museum, and can be visited. The currently accessible adits are located 23 m beneath the derrick floor of the main shaft, in massive, but strongly tectonized gneiss and mica schists. The deeper levels (at 32 and 40 m depth) of the mine, equally in gneiss, are currently partly flooded. The mining authority has given green light for further excavations, but advised the need for thorough probing before access to the public could be considered. The valley of the Kahl River hosts many old abandoned surface and underground mines. The mining targeted baryte and various metal deposits, but these deposits were often found to be discontinuous and therefore relatively confined. This led to short periods of mining, followed by long periods of standstill, and decay. The Wilhelmine mine is somewhat an exception, given it closed late (1922) and was salvaged from oblivion by mining enthusiasts from the village of Sommerkahl. Scientific literature describing mineral associations date back to the 19th century (Ludwig, 1854). Today, the restored mine (Figure 1) attracts a steady number of visitors. These come with different motifs- some are interested in the history of mining, whilst others come to enjoy recreation and the many colourful minerals. The latter are mainly found in the gneiss section, whilst the attic of the mine is built by a Permian breccia and evaporitic carbonate, and may hold only iron minerals. A picture of the active mine during the 1920'ies is shown in Figure 2. Whilst copper mining activity has been confirmed at least since the 19th century, other metals such as iron, baryte, cobalt and



Figure 1: Satellite picture of the front cliff of the mine. The current rock front is a cleaned-up open cast mine, which is open for visitors during summer. The mine is run by an association, the Kupfermine Wilhelmine Sommerkahl e.V. The mine also hosts a small grill hut and a museum, which contains a rich collection of local minerals, and ancient mining tools.

silver were mined in neighboring valleys. In Wilhelmine, local tales and legends tell of older, and shallower levels (see also Weinelt & Okrusch, 1965). However, there are no obvious indications of older mining activities in the cleaned up cliff of the open pit, nor appear the accessible shafts and adits of the late 19th and early 20th century to be connected to any older and shallower mining tunnels. Unverified accounts and a few documents give hints of previous mining activities in the roof section, which may have started as early as 1542 (Amrhein, 1895; Weinelt & Okrusch, 1965).

As shown in Figure 3, mining technology had already reached a remarkable level of technology and savvy during that time, the Renaissance (Agricola, 1556). In those years mine workers advanced adits by fire-setting, and pulled out ore and tailings in small wooden trucks. Children had to work in layered ore bodies such as the Copper Shale. Tools of the time are on display in the mining museum located next to the mine. To date, however, it remains

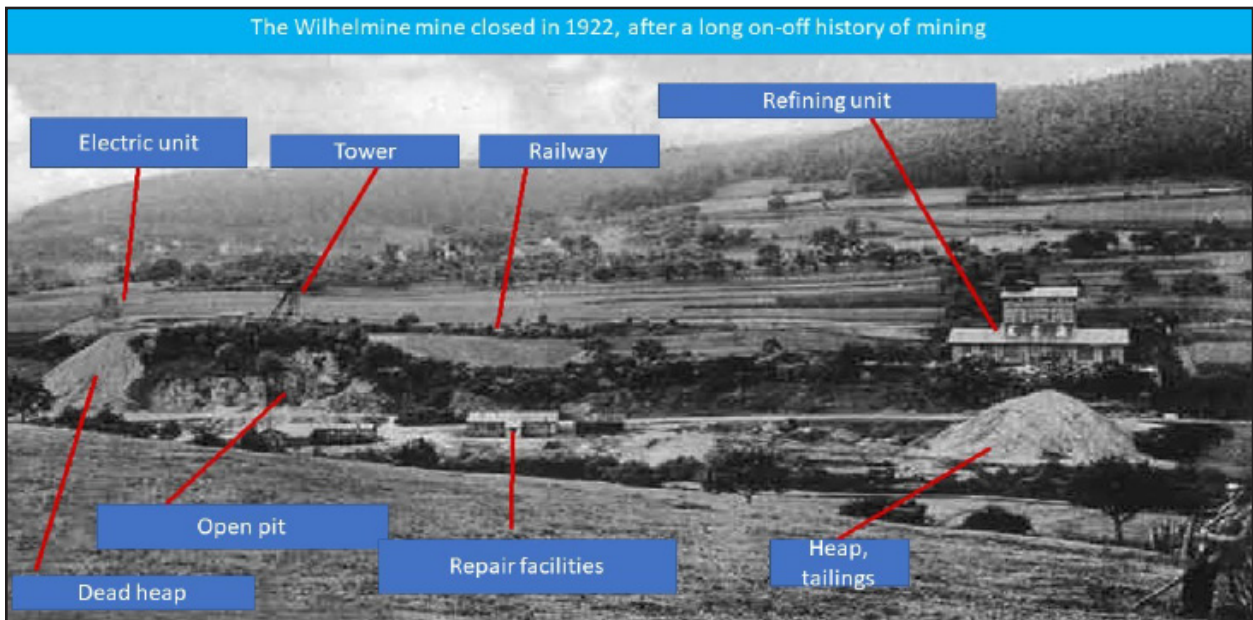


Figure 2: The mine in 1922. After several centuries of mining activity, the copper mine closed for good. The knowledge of the mine is largely coined by the last chapter of metal extraction, whilst the older history of the mine is surrounded by myths and legends.

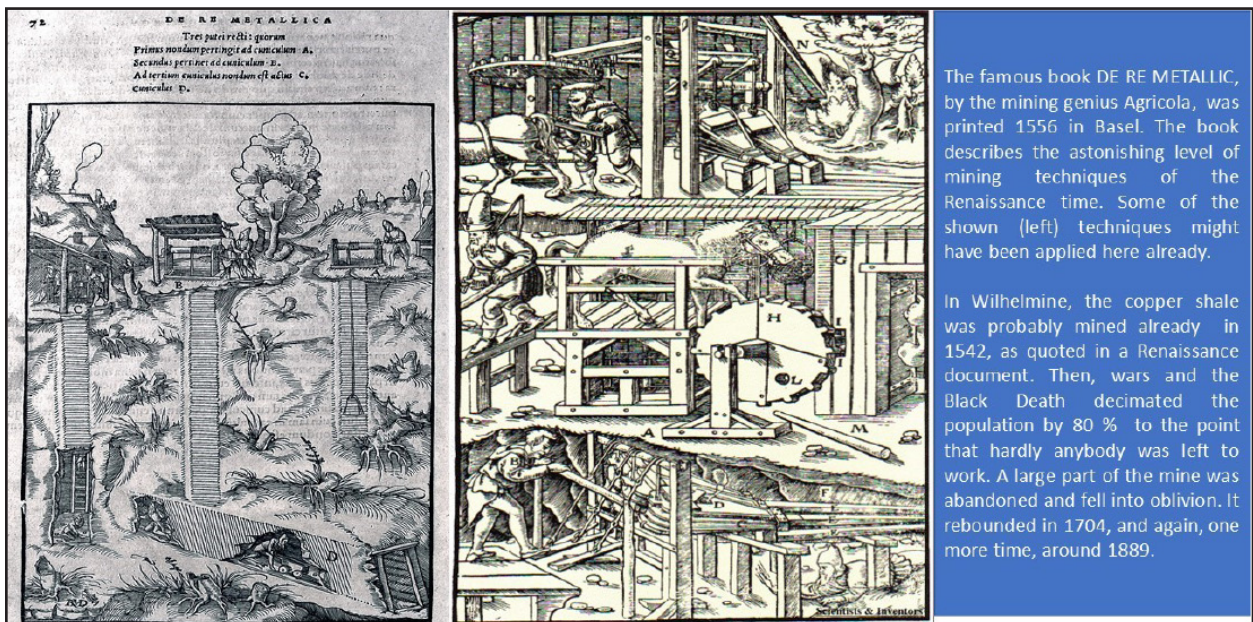


Figure 3: Showing technology of copper and silver mines in Central Europe during the Renaissance from Agricola's famous mining book published in 1556.

uncertain whether or not the Permian Copper Shale was ever mined in the Wilhelmine area, given the prospective bituminous rock sequence appears to be less than one meter thick in outcrops near the mine location.

Both lode-bearing sedimentary rock and gneiss imposed considerable technical challenges: The relative weakness of the available cable material strength forced the mine workers to build shafts at relatively frequent intervals, and to connect adits at different levels by means of blind shafts.

Our quest for older and shallower adit levels of the mine commenced in April 2017, and combined geological fieldwork with geophysical methods.

GEOLOGICAL SETTING, MINERALIZATION AND TECTONIC ASPECTS

Wedge between Devonian gneiss and several hundreds of meters of red-colored Triassic aeolian sandstone, called Buntsandstein or Bunter, we observe an interval of some 25 meters sedimentary rock that encompasses the very late Paleozoic (Figure 4). It hosts a rich variety of minerals, some of which seem to be related to evaporitic and bituminous sediments (Copper Shale, Zechstein Dolomite), whilst others appear to have hydrothermal affinities. Mineralization occurs both within sedimentary rocks (Permian Breccia, Copper Shale), yet more prominently in fractured gneiss and mica schists underlying the Permian sediments.

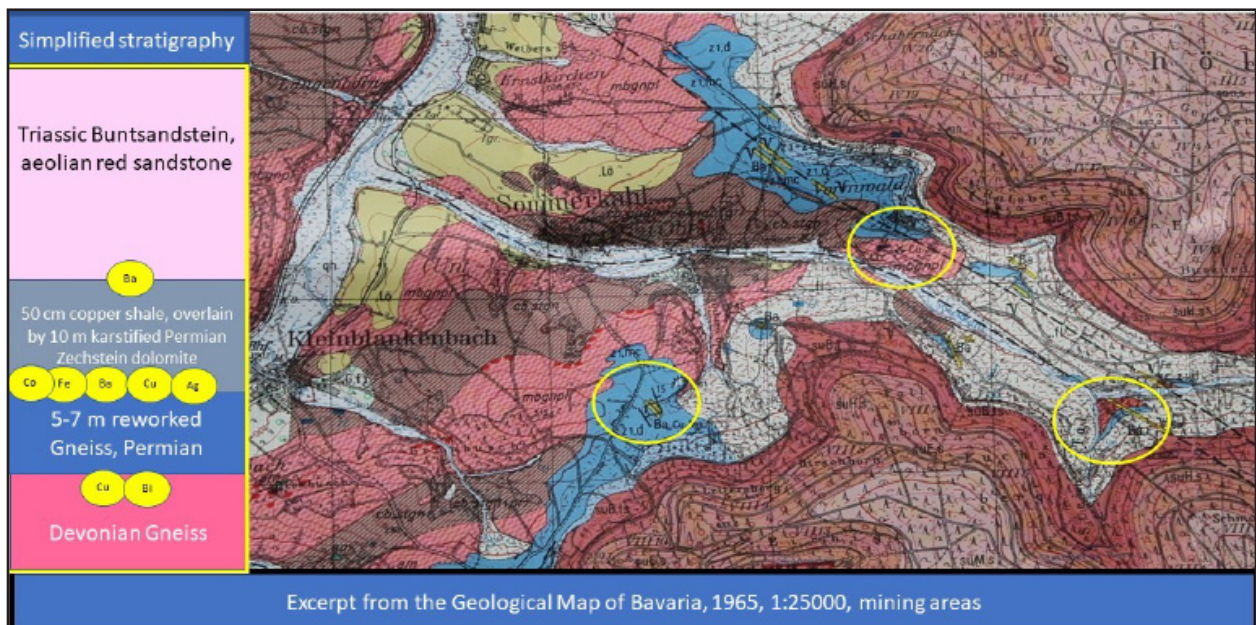


Figure 4: A zoomed segment of the Geological Map of the area, plus a simplified stratigraphy. The current map version shown here dates from 1965. The position of the mine is shown by the uppermost yellow circle. The other yellow circles are locations of adjacent mining locations, now mostly overgrown. The mineralized rock is usually found within tectonized gneiss, and the Paleozoic sediments above. The map shows folded gneiss (in pink), with a discordant cover of Late Paleozoic sediments (blue) and above, the Triassic Buntsandstein or Bunter (red-brown to pink).

In Wilhelmine, the extracted copper ore were mainly bornite, tennantite, and more rarely cuprite. These ores are found in nests and veins located within fractured gneiss and mica schists, and in close vicinity of faults and joints. There are no continuous, laterally connected lode veins.

There has been a longstanding debate about the origins of the mineralization (see Okrusch *et al.*, 2007), which is not quite conclusively resolved yet. The old school believed hypersaline brines descended, leached mineral from the copper shale and redeposited it in the broken-up gneiss and overlying sediments. Proof being, that the sulfur in the minerals such as Bornite has an organic isotope signature. Temperature of mineral formation was calculated to be ca 60 degrees C. Another school of mineralogists believes the metals are hydrothermal deposits. There is a good argument in favor of that theory, too, given there are many hydrothermal veins in areas where the copper shale was not even deposited. Some other researchers believe in a compromise: Hydrothermal liquids percolated in Jurassic times through metal-rich sediment and deposited minerals in porous rock, as well as in tectonized gneiss, sediment, and conglomerate.

In respect to ores located within the gneiss and mica schist section, it is noted that mineralization occurred in permeability zones (open fractures as well as mylonite) created by strike-slip tectonism, which affected the basement rock during the Late Paleozoic era. This resulted in joint and fracture sets that rarely extend beyond 50 meters. The latter may explain why (likely to the frustration of ancient minors) no continuous lodes were encountered.

Our initial investigations centered on the cliff face. There are numerous steep and parallel faults. One major

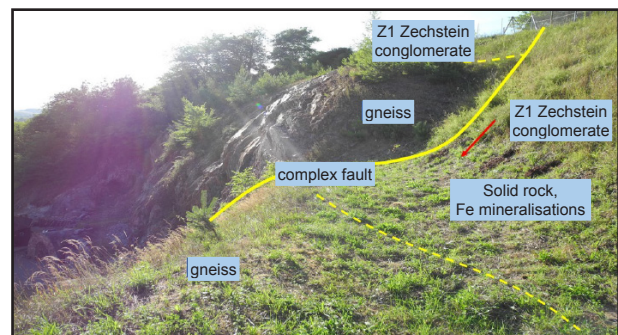


Figure 5: Picture of the cliff area above the mine's entrance. A fault (yellow line) is seen to displace the gneiss/conglomerate boundary by some 4 meters.

fault is exposed on the upper cliff section (Figure 5) and displaces the gneiss/Zechstein boundary by some 4 meters. The frontal cliff section displays a strongly tectonized and copper-mineralized gneiss and mica schist section (Figure 6), fractured and distorted by an array of strike-slip faults. In the cliff, one can discriminate between strongly boudinaged reddish gneiss bodies, 'floating' between belts of green-colored breccia, and mylonite. These host secondary copper minerals (Figure 6). Fault planes, mylonite, and a majority of joints are nearly vertical and represent shear zones between several branches of a ca. 80 m wide strike-slip fault zone (Figure 7). Major faults can be traced from the cliff face into the mine's interior. Fault planes show slicken-sides, indicating a dominant horizontal component (Figure 8). A shear rhomboid, which developed between two strike slip fault branches, is shown in Figure 9. In weathered near-surface rock we observe formation of chrysocolla

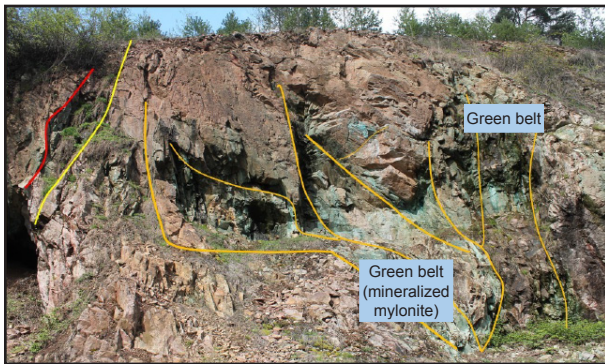


Figure 6: The green rock belts are formed by mylonitic gneiss, which later became impregnated with copper minerals.

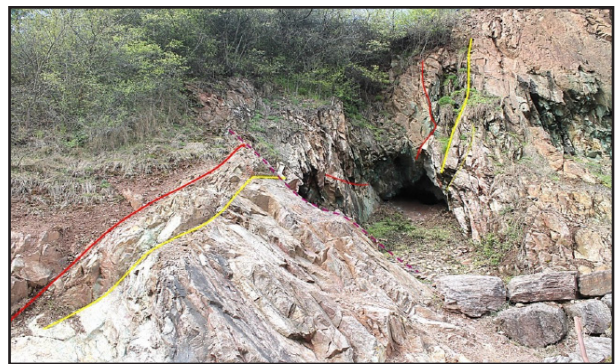


Figure 7: View of a major strike slip fault, forming a boundary between the mineralized gneiss section (right) and country rock.



Figure 8: Near to horizontal slickensides indicate strike slip mode as the major component in the faulting.

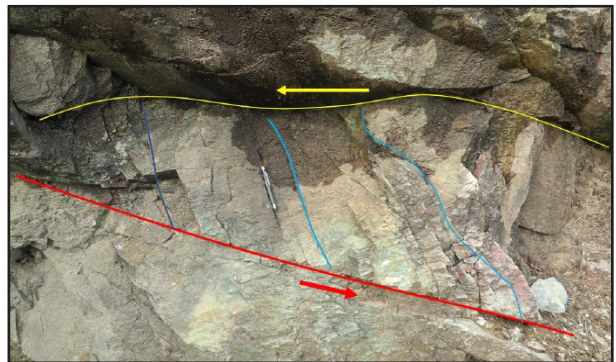
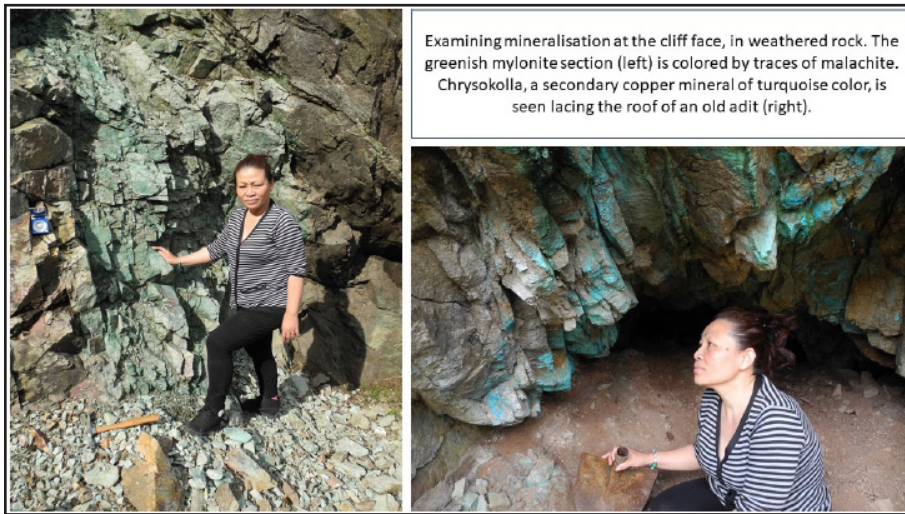


Figure 9: An example of joints in a small gneiss rhomboid wedged between two branches of a strike slip fault system.



Examining mineralisation at the cliff face, in weathered rock. The greenish mylonite section (left) is colored by traces of malachite. Chrysokolla, a secondary copper mineral of turquoise color, is seen lacing the roof of an old adit (right).

Figure 10: Minerals in the strongly tectonized mylonite rock (left), strongly turquoise chrysocolla is seen forming patches on weathered gneiss (right).

(Figure 10). Inside of the mine, the unweathered gneiss walls are massive and strong, and consequently there is mostly no need of additional support in the adits (Figure 11). Minerals such as malachite and azurite are seen in roof sections and point to nests of weathered tennantite, cuprite and bornite (Figure 12).

GPR METHODOLOGY AND GEOPHYSICAL PROFILING

Ground-penetrating radar (GPR) is a geophysical method that uses radar pulses to penetrate and image

the subsurface. It uses electromagnetic radiation in the microwave band of the radio spectrum. Similar to seismic, GPR machines detect the reflected or refracted signals from buried rock surfaces. GPR can image rock, soil, ice, fresh water, pavements and structures. A GPR transmitter emits electromagnetic energy into the ground, with two emitter antennas, and recovers the reflected or refracted energy again with a pair of receiver antennas. When the energy encounters a buried object or a boundary between materials having different permittivities, it may be reflected or refracted or scattered back to the surface. The signal



Figure 11: The Wihelmine mine. Due to very stable rock, no additional support is required.



Figure 12: Colorful copper minerals are dotting the walls, often in nested areas, and shielding copper ore beneath.

is reflected at boundaries where subsurface electrical properties change rather than subsurface mechanical properties as is the case with seismic energy. Therefore, radar data can be compared to some extent with geoelectrical array data. The electrical conductivity of the ground, in particular the content of moisture, can affect both amplitude and frequency, and also the effective depth range of GPR investigation. Increases in electrical conductivity attenuate the introduced electromagnetic wave, and thus the penetration depth decreases. The used machine, the OKM Gepard, has an in-built menu which allows selection of a variety of rock and soil types. The choice of antenna length, form) defines the operating frequency, and one can work with stronger or weaker emitter signals. Similar to seismic, there is always a trade-off between resolution and penetration. A strong emitter signal can also cause unwanted noise. The Gepard uses air-launched antennas that are used above the ground, in distance of ca 10 to 20 cm to the measurement surface. The machine allows acquisition in both 2D and 3D mode. Unfortunately it is not possible to export radar data, which is clearly a weakness of the machine. Simplicity of operation is unfortunately traded here against data filtering capability and other data improvements.

Once the geological scouting in the mine was completed, we commenced GPR measurements (Figure 13.) The first set of experimental 2D measurements was carried out in the open yard facing the cliff, on the access road and also in the two entry adits of the mine. On the whole, a vertical radar signal penetration of some 30

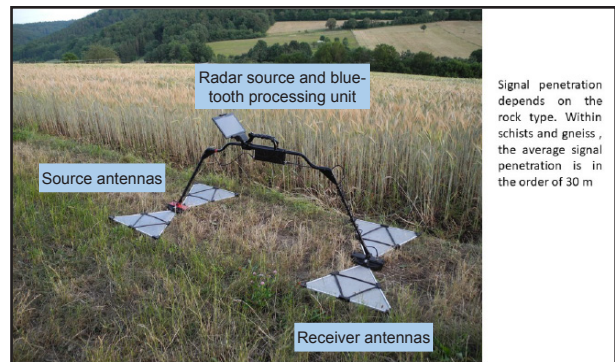


Figure 13: The relatively light-weight and mobile GPR, brand OKM model Gepard, here assembled for measurements in fields near Sommerkahl.

meters could be obtained. This said, the overall quality of the initial measurements was low, given:

- A significant noise level and frequency attenuation characterized the data of the yard and parking lot area measurements – these negative effects originated probably from scatter in landfill;
- Metal doors inside of the mine, as well as reverberation from the walls, created high-amplitude noise.

After these initial experimental and not very encouraging results, measurements were continued up on the meadows, at the mine's rooftop (Figure 14). Acquisition of data had to follow the farming calendar (grass land can be walked-in only until May, measurement in cornfields can be carried out only after harvest which starts late June). Data were obtained both in a vertical and a tilted mode (Figure 15). Results turned out to be quite encouraging, and yielded:

- An excellent imaging quality of the breccia-gneiss interface and faulting (Figure 16);
- The realization that GPR measurements are particularly sensitive to moisture; measurements that were carried out after a rainy weather period appeared to yield a better contrast and illumination of strata and fault planes;
- Indications of adits at 6-7 m and 23 m depth (Figure 16);



Figure 14: Vertical GPR measurements on the mine's rooftop, in 2D mode, and using triangular antennas.

- Indications for shafts and blind shafts. The latter are seen to connect adit levels at 6-7 m and 12-14 m depth (Figure 17). The adits are estimated to be ca 1.8 meter high, and may be filled with tailings, or may be empty at places.

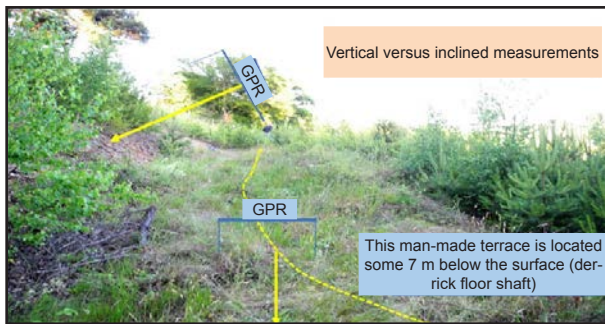


Figure 15: Vertical and tilted measurements.

Throughout the summer period of 2017 several lines were acquired at multiple times to provide a better data consistency and to minimize GPS location errors. In July 2017, we also experimented applying the GPR in a tilted mode, such that adits located near to the the upper cliff section could be imaged from the side. This approach required testing of different antennas and settings, but eventually yielded good results (Figure 18). The strong signal/high amplitude section observed in this picture may coincide with loose fill zones in a network of hidden adits and excavated sections.

DATA INTEGRATION AND ONGOING WORK

The data base for all data is Google Earth. Topo data from hand-held GPS, the inbuilt GPS from the GPR device were combined in one single data base of decimal coordinates. The advantage of this approach

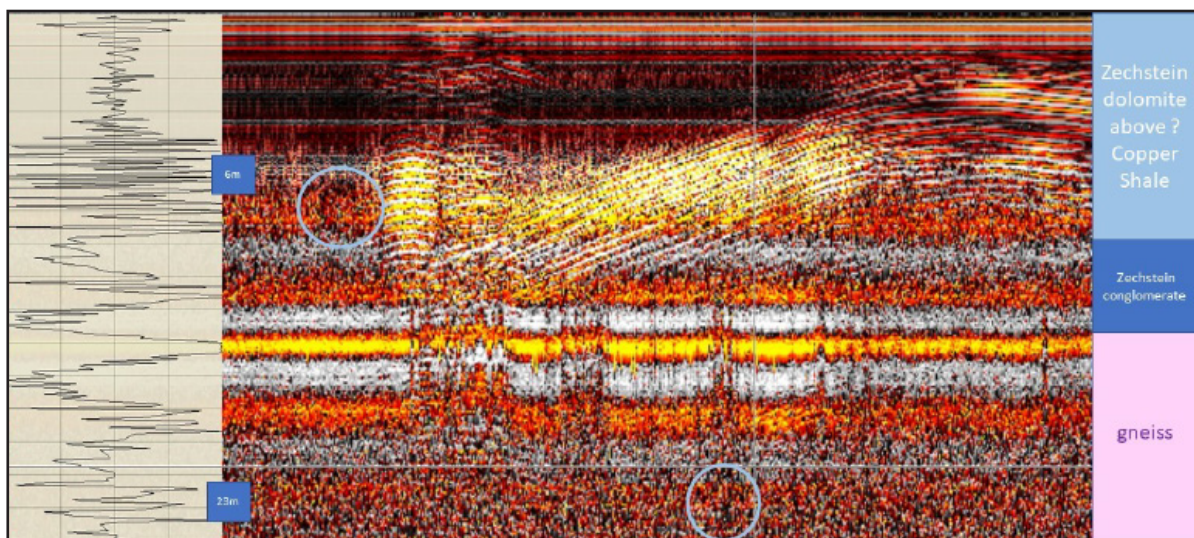


Figure 16: A vertical GPR measurement. A silver-yellow-silver reflection triplet marks the transition from the Permian breccia to gneiss. A few very steep strike-slip faults can be seen. Hyperbolic moveout reflections in the upper right quarter may stem from a shaft nearby. One hidden medieval adit (enforced by grey circle) is seen at a depth of ca 6-7 meters, whilst deeper adits of the known and accessible 23 m level are seen as well. The 6-7 m level appears to be positioned in the copper shale layer, a sediment rich in organic material and heavy metals. It is believed that the earliest mining activities targeted the copper shale before digging deeper. Hematite and baryte mineralization also occurs at this stratigraphic level.

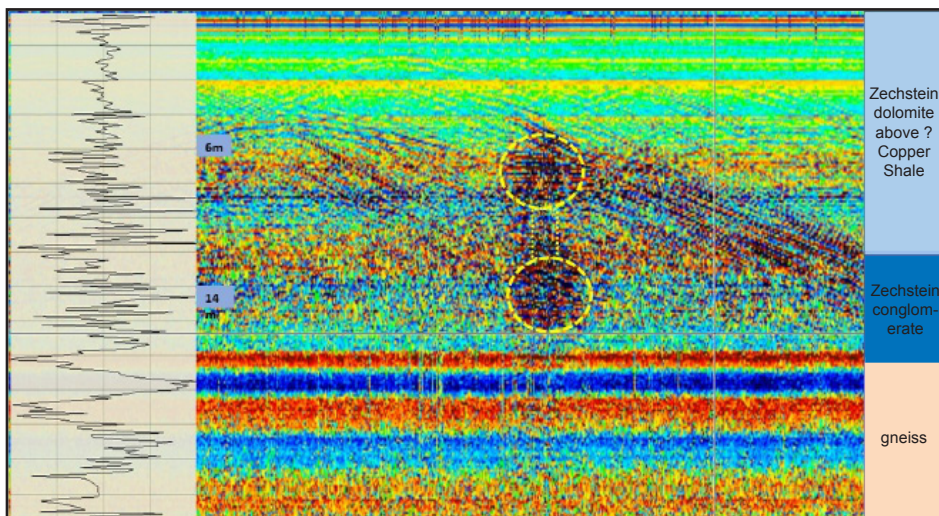


Figure 17: 2D section showing a blind shaft and adits at 6-7 and 12-14 meters, as imaged by the Gepard GPR. Blind shafts were already used in the Middle Ages, since the ropes available at that time could not significantly exceed a certain length.

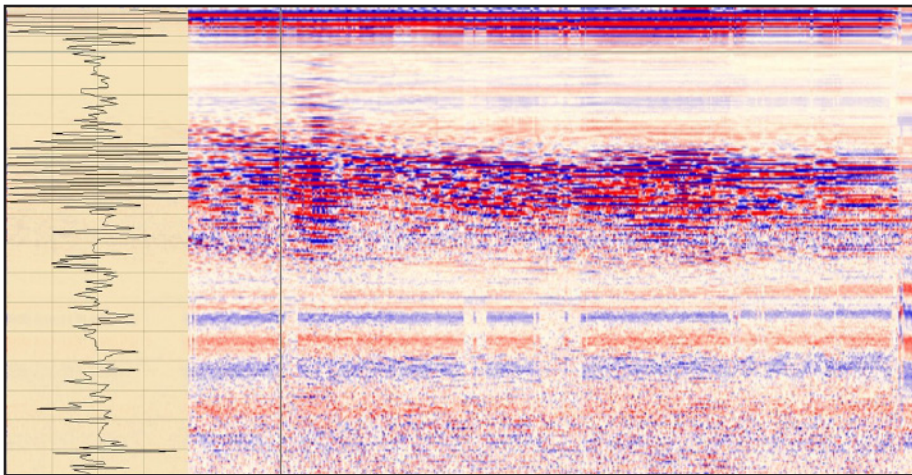


Figure 18: Tilted GPR measurement indicating a high amplitude/strong signal zone some 7-8 meters away from surface (top of section = datum of measurement). The high amplitude areas may indicate the presence of a hidden adit, and areas of excavation or blind shafts.

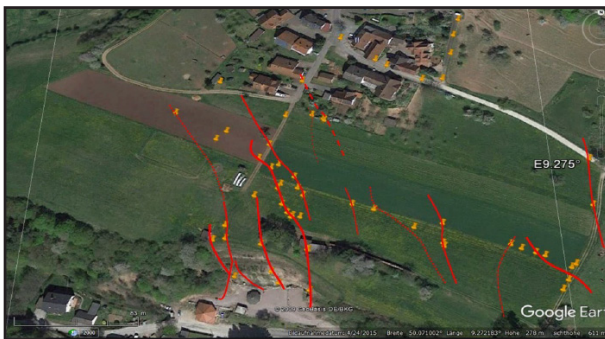


Figure 19: Map showing a simplified geological fault correlation pattern combining geological measurement with GPR detection, July 2017. Individual fault planes may be much shorter as shown.

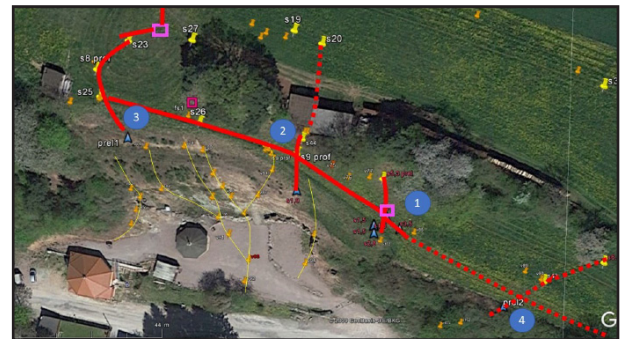


Figure 20: Detailed map of the proximal mine area with improved fault correlation (orange pins), shafts (red purple squares), potentially collapsed adits and mouth hole areas (1,2,3,4) and GPR-identified 6-7 m adits (yellow pins, red solid line, and dashed lines).

being that data can be edited easily and adapted as new data are added to the data base. Two examples of maps are shown in Figures 19 and 20. Fault correlation was challenging given the nature of a braided strike-slip setting, where fault planes tend to be curved and relative short. Therefore it is planned to carry out GPR measurements in a 3D mode. There are also plans to investigate further the location of possible medieval adits, mouth holes and to carry out preliminary digging to validate the presence of older sections of the mine.

CONCLUSIONS

The “Gepard” GPR was successfully tested at Wilhelmine. Faults could be identified, and fault planes imaged. Measurements revealed the existence of previously unknown levels of probably medieval adits at ca 6-7 and ca. 12-14 and more locally at 18 meters. These adits are interlinked by blind shafts at regular intervals.

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Is there scope for a geopark project in greater Miri area, NW Sarawak?

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Abstract: The greater Miri area offers scope for development of a number of geological sites, which could constitute the backbone of a Geopark project. However, as it stands, most of the sites discussed in this article are endangered to fall prey to degradation by erosion and vegetation, and to some extent also to competing developments such as housing construction or palm oil plantations. To secure a successful Geopark development, one would need to place selected areas under heritage protection and then add infrastructure for a better access, seek guidance from the relevant authorities and promotion for geo-tourism.

Key words: Miri, NW Sarawak, geology, Geopark, tourism

INTRODUCTION

The idea of developing a Geopark project in NW Sarawak – securing the geological heritage plus making it accessible and understandable to the public has originated in *ca.* 1998, when a group of PETRONAS and Shell geologists started a conservation project on the Airport Road outcrop; this pioneer project was and is still very important for geological studies of fault styles, but needs a facelift.

In late 2009, discussions commenced with Nippon Oil (Mr. Hajime Kusaka and Dr. John Jong) on the initiation of a Geopark project. The company offered a once-off funding of RM15,000 for the year 2010 through a Curtin University Sponsorship Programme. Under the lead of Dr. Yudi Samyudia, then Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Curtin University; Shamsul Anwar, Head of the Curtin Consultancy Unit and Dr. Franz L Kessler, Head of Department (Applied Geology), it was decided to initiate a conservation project, with the aim of securing Miri's geological heritage locations. The study team consisted of Dr. Tan Chong Keng, Dr. Rajalingam Sokkalingam, Dr. Zeya Ooy, Mr. Tay Chen Lim and Dr. Masatoshi Sone at the time.

Over the years, students of the Curtin University conducted additional site mapping, under the guidance of Dr. Nagarajan Ramasamy, Dr. Prasanna Mohan Viswanathan and Dr. Dominique Dodge Wan, mostly in the context of final year mapping projects, with some of these studies summarized by Kessler & Jong (2017a & 2017b). Additional information and data in the context of a Geopark project can be found in Wannier *et al.* (2011), and also in Dony Adriansyah *et al.* (2016).

CRITERIA FOR CHOOSING THE RIGHT LOCATIONS

For selection of areas to be included in a Geopark concept, it is important that the individual location satisfy

a number of criteria:

- (i) Accessibility. Locations should be in the (car) perimeter of Miri, which would allow interested (geo)-tourists to spend a both leisurely and stimulating day in the field;
- (ii) Attractivity. Heritage objects need to offer particular aspects such as natural beauty and uniqueness. Some locations will introduce visitors to a very general geological understanding, others will address the seasoned geological tourist;
- (iii) Safety. All locations need to have a safe car parking location (in this case this means - secure from fast-flowing transit traffic) plus safe access, for example passenger bridges over rivers and ravines;
- (iv) Being part of a larger story. Ideally, the selected outcrops should form an intellectual jigsaw puzzle, which could include the Petroleum Geology Museum and other Miri landmarks;
- (v) Promotion of Miri. The initiative should also help to promote Miri as a location for multiple tourist activities.

Figure 1 shows an area index map of the proposed heritage locations in the greater Miri area for geological outcrop preservation.

CATALOGUE OF SELECTED AREAS

a) Greater Airport Road outcrop and Canada Hill in Miri (Figure 1 - Inset 1)

Airport Road outcrop

Located along the Miri-Bintulu trunk road near Taman Awam in Miri (Figure 1). A world-class outcrop for the study of fault development and structural complexity of the Miri Field (Figure 2). The outcrop is the only heritage site maintains by the Miri City Council (Wannier *et al.*, 2011). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 22.037 min, Easting 113 deg 58.70 min.

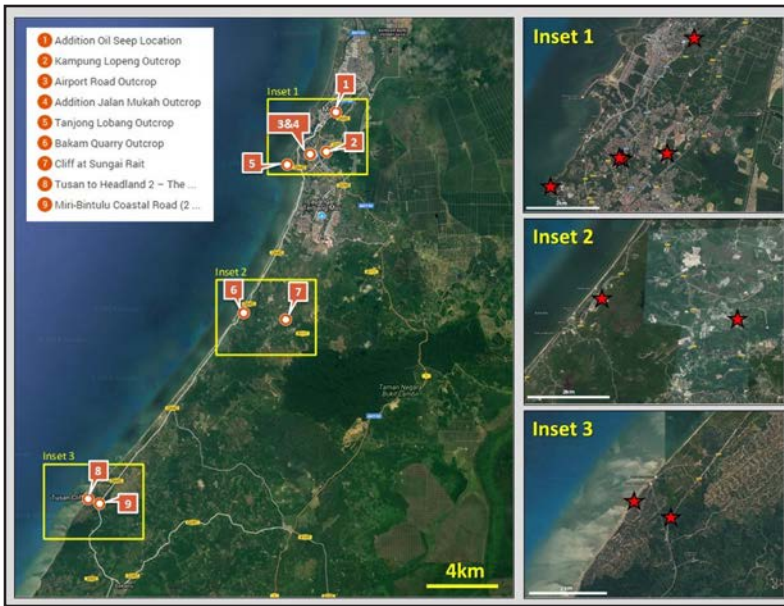


Figure 1: Area index map from Google with the proposed heritage locations for outcrop preservation.

Status: Partly developed with updated infographic panels and an overhead bridge constructed recently connecting to Taman Awam; parking area can be improved further being the pioneer site preserved with ease of access located along the main road and a good flow of visitors;

Importance: Spectacular outcrops, and location of several studies until PhD level on micro-faulting;

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri, for training of oil company professionals and students;

Plan: Minor repairs and amendments.

Addition Jalan Mukah outcrop

Located at Jalan Mukah No. 7 (Figure 1), on walking distance from the Airport Road Outcrop, this so-far unsecured outcrop has world-class quality and a number of prominent geological studies (by local and overseas researchers) have been carried out (Figure 3). The outcrop is particularly precious for studying sealing properties in oil fields, where one can almost map the fault in three dimensions. Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 22.057 min, Easting 113 deg 58.66 min.

Status: Un-developed; parking area exists, but access to the rock wall is poor;

Importance: Spectacular outcrop with 3D fault exposure as shown in Figure 3;

Target group: The general public, adventurous eco-tourists, families; geology students in their foundation classes;

Plan: Fortify existing path way from Jalan Mukah No. 7.

Addition oil seep location

Located on the opposite side of the Meritz Hotel in Center Miri, along Miri-Lutong trunk road on the Canada Hill slope and above a PETRONAS gas station (Figure



Figure 2: Miri Airport Road Outcrop. The main fault is interpreted as part of a crestal collapse structure of an inversion anticline, which forms the Miri Field. Approximately face of outcrop height is 6m. From Nichols & Baker, 2015.



Figure 3: Jalan Mukah No.7 Outcrop. The outcrop is particularly precious for studying of sealing properties in oil fields, where one can almost map the fault in three dimension. Approximately face of outcrop height is 4m to the right.

1). The area contains an oil seep (Figure 4), where oil can be collected in particular after rainy periods. The seep is located at the hinge of a scissor fault. Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 23.86 min, Easting 113 deg 59.78 min.

Status: Un-developed; parking area exists, but access to the rock wall is poor;

Importance: Live oil seep investigation;

Target group: The general public, adventurous ecotourists, families; geology students in their foundation classes;

Plan: Build access trail from PETRONAS gas station area.

Kampung Lopeng outcrop

Located on a construction access road (gravel) branching from Miri Hospital Road and leading southwest (Figure 1). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 22.156 min, Easting 113 deg 55.365 min.

Status: Un-developed; parking area should be improved. Area including outcrop is flagged for a housing project and might be destroyed soon if not protected;

Importance: Spectacular outcrop (Figure 5), and location of several studies until PhD level. This outcrop is very important for the tectonical reconstruction of events creating the Miri Field; word-class outcrop for sedimentological studies particularly in respect of reservoir poro-permeability studies. The area also offers nests and breeding locations for many birds, such as parrots, and it is an ideal location to teach children about rocks;

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri; for training of oil company professionals and students; families with children;

Plan: create a few parking spots, to erect a panel with explanations.

Plan: To cut an access path into the soft sandstone cliffs such that the cliff area can be reached.

Tanjong Lobang outcrop

This Miri outcrop consists of the cliff face between Tanjong Lobang and a gated private area (Figure 1). The area contains spectacular cliff sections and a pristine beach (Figure 6), unfrequented by tourists and Mirians alike, yet in the middle of Miri. Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 21.6 min, Easting 113 deg 57.665 min.

Status: No good access along the sea (involves wading in up to 1.5m water);

Importance: Spectacular outcrops, and location of several planned studies until PhD level. The outcrop also contains well-preserved samples of *Ophiomorpha* trace fossils in the "Pujut Shallow Sands" (Wannier *et al.*, 2011). Equally attractive for common tourists enjoying the beauty of nature.

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri; for training of oil company professionals and students; general tourism;

b) Bakam area (Figure 1 – Inset 2)

Bakam Quarry outcrop

Located in the vicinity of Bakam village behind a kindergarten along the Miri-Bintulu coastal road (Figure 1). The outcrop is important for the study of the Tukai



Figure 4: Oil seep location on the Canada Hill slope and above a Petronas gas station opposite the Meritz Hotel with observing geologists for scale.



Figure 5: Kampung Lopeng Outcrop. Faulted and thrust sediments of the Tukai Formation are exposed, an excellent location for investigation of fault geometries and mechanics. Approximately face of outcrop height is 4m.



Figure 6: Tanjong Lobang cliff section view from Taman Selera, Miri which consists of dipping beds of amalgamated sandstones and mudstones with thin sandstones where on some outcrop surfaces well-preserved samples of *Ophiomorpha* trace fossils can be seen. Approximate cliff height is about 30m.

Formation formed by intertidal clastics, in particular tidal channel deposits that appear strongly amalgamated and interbedded with silty parallel layers (Figure 7). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 15.228 min, Easting 113 deg 55.8 min.

Status: Un-developed, possibly flagged for housing project. No good parking area available;

Importance: Spectacular outcrop, showing sidestepping distributary channels of the Tukau Formation. Location of several studies until PhD level;

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri; for training of oil company professionals and students for clastic sedimentology;

Plan: To protect the (horseshoe-shaped) flanks of the outcrop and create a few parking spaces, and erect a panel with explanations.

Cliff at Sungai Rait

Located on a branch road from Miri to Bekenu, inland from the coast and accessible by cars and minibuses (Figure 1). The outcrop is formed by a cliff of Tukau Formation sandstone and shale. It demonstrates the character of sandy reservoir, interfingering with clay streaks, in such a way that demonstrating the problematic of reservoir and seal in Sarawak oil fields (Figure 8). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 14.95 min, Easting 113 deg 57.6 min.

Status: Reasonable access from Miri-Bintulu coastal road and Sungai Rait branch road;

Importance: Spectacular outcrops, and location of several planned studies until PhD level. Excellent for sedimentological studies. Equally attractive for common tourists enjoying the beauty of nature;

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri; for training of oil company professionals and students; general tourism;

Plan: To preserve cliff area and area between access road and cliff. Currently access is limited with private farming activities.

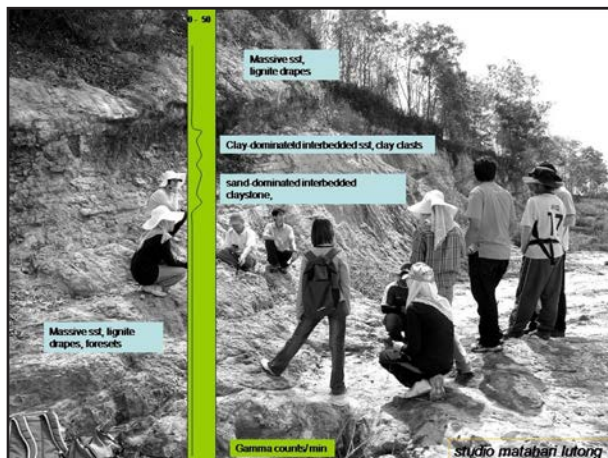


Figure 7: Bakam Quarry Outcrop. Gamma Ray response of a Tukau Formation channel sandstone/claystone assemblages. With students (as scale) of the Curtin University 3rd Year geology class, and delegates from Nippon Oil. Photo taken on Saturday 12th September, 2009. From Kessler & Jong, 2016.

c) Tusan area, Bekenu vicinity (Figure 1 - Inset 3)

Tusan to Headland 2 – The prominent cliff section

Located at the end of the branch road to Tusan cliffs from Miri to Bekenu with a wonderful sight of the South China Sea from the cliff top (Figure 1). A hotspot for study of the structural evolution of the greater Miri area with angular unconformity between steeply dipping beds of the Lambir Formation (Figure 9) and sub-horizontal Pleistocene terrace sandstones (Wannier *et al.*, 2011; Kessler & Jong, 2014). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 7.234 min, Easting 113 deg 49.08 min.

Status: Un-developed; parking area exists, but access to the beach is poor;

Importance: Spectacular outcrops (Figure 9), natural beauty and for fossil hunting (Tertiary crab species);



Figure 8: Sungai Rait Outcrop is useful for sub-surface analogue of reservoir and seal potential with geologists as scale. Within the tidal deposits of the Pliocene Tukau Formation as shown, we observe clay-contaminated reservoirs as well as sandy/silty clay layers. Reservoirs and seals can be scoured, hence limiting potential of good hydrocarbon columns both from the reservoir and seal perspective.

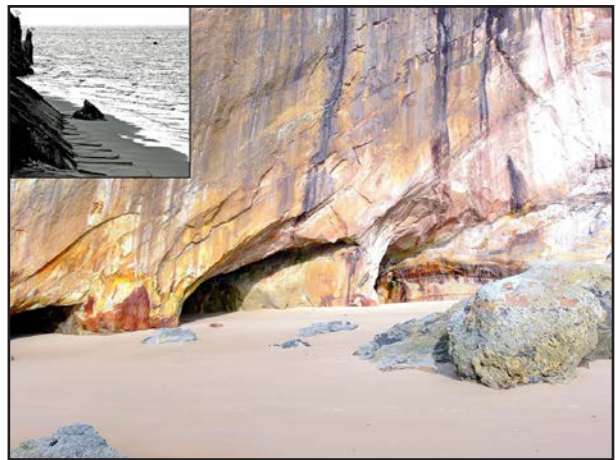


Figure 9: Tusan to Headland 2, the prominent cliff section located at the end of the branch road to Tusan cliffs from Miri to Bekenu with steeply dipping beds of the massive Lambir Formation sandstone. Not fully capture here but approximately outcrop height is 20-30m. Inset figure shows a view of the dipping beds with a view of the South China Sea.

introduction into basic geological processes (tides, cave formation, meandering rivers), biologic habitats (lizards, bat caves);

Target group: The general public, adventurous ecotourists, families; geology students in their foundation classes;

Plan: Cut a path into soft sandstone *ca.* 35 m, and build a wooden bridge (*ca.* 12 m) over a minor river. Panels to explain setting.

Miri-Bintulu coastal road (2 km off Tusan Junction)

Located *ca.* 2km off the Tusan Cliff road junction along the Miri-Bintulu coastal road (Figure 1). The outcrop shows beautiful examples of clay gouging, fault drag and brecciation (Figure 10). Faults have been measured and correlated, and clay gouging indicates a correlation between gouging thickness and fault throw (Kessler & Jong, 2010 & 2017a). Coordinates: Northing 4 deg 7.022 min, Easting 113 deg 49.582 min.

Status: Un-developed, rock walls are quickly eroding. There is no parking facility available nearby, and access by walking through high grass can be difficult;

Importance: Spectacular world-class outcrop, cited in two publications (Kessler & Jong, 2010 & 2017a); topic of potential future pressure studies and gauge mineralogy making use of the spectacular clay gouge on display;

Target group: Mainly seasoned geo-tourists visiting Miri; for training of oil company professionals and students for fault seal investigation.

Plan: Clean surface; bulldoze and construct a few parking places; erect a panel with explanations; make two short (2m by 7m) pathways into the outcrops on either side of the road.

CONCLUSIONS

The greater Miri area, together with the outlier Batu Niah (a National Park) in NW Sarawak, offers many and also spectacular world-class geological outcrops, some of them are considered unique and subjects of a number of completed and on-going research studies until PhD level. Initial investigation by Curtin University has identified a number of potential heritage locations for outcrop preservation for a Geopark project as summarized in this article. However, follow-up of the Geopark proposal has remains challenging to implement due to a lack of authority endorsement and preservation funding. Until today there is little consciousness and conservation effort in respect to the potential touristic value of these sites. Development of the sites would require a masterplan spearheaded by the Miri City Council, in collaboration with the Tourism Board of Sarawak to publicise them for geo-tourism, and with sustainable sponsorship of



Figure 10: Outcrop located near the Miri-Bintulu coastal road *ca.* 2km off the Tusan Cliff road junction with geologists for scale. The outcrop show a series of normal faults, vested in an 800 dipping clastic sequence belonging to the Tukai Formation. The outcrop shows beautiful examples of clay gouging, fault drag and brecciation. Faults have been measured and correlated, and clay gouging indicates a correlation between gouging thickness and fault throw (Kessler & Jong, 2010 & 2017a).

the local private industries to maintain these geological treasures.

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Advancing disaster resilience: Insights on landslide and karst susceptibility assessments

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INTRODUCTION

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Report of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to Disaster Risk Reduction at its 71st session on 2 February 2017. The Report comprised terminology relating to disaster risk reduction to support coherence in implementing the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030), a global agreement that was accepted by governments in 2015. Among the terms defined include nomenclature that is common in geoscience such as disaster, disaster risk, disaster risk assessment, exposure, hazard, hazardous event and vulnerability, among others. The term susceptibility, which is an integral concept in the assessment of hazards in geoscience is not explicitly defined in this global policy document. The term is only mentioned once in the entire document, in the context of vulnerability. Vulnerable conditions are expected to increase the “susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards”.

It is not possible to conduct a hazard or risk assessment without first evaluating an area for the presence of physical factors that may cause the hazard. These physical factors contribute to the susceptibility of an area to hazards, and include aspects that relate to both the surficial features as well as subsurface geology, which have to be evaluated in a systematic manner depending on the type of hazard that is being assessed. Given the absence of a common terminology for susceptibility in global policy, governments will have to develop operational definitions at the national level to

Selected terminology on disaster risk reduction in the Sendai Framework:

Disaster: A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity, leading to one or more of the following: human, material, economic and environmental losses and impacts.

Disaster Risk: The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

Disaster Risk Assessment: A qualitative or quantitative approach to determine the nature and extent of disaster risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of exposure and vulnerability that together could harm people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

Exposure: The situation of people, infrastructure, housing, production capacities and other tangible human assets located in hazard-prone areas.

Hazard: A process, phenomenon or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.

Hazardous Event: The manifestation of a hazard in a particular place during a particular period of time.

Vulnerability: The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards.



















promote standard, comprehensive and robust susceptibility assessments for natural hazards. A sound definition would require drawing on current approaches and practices for assessing the susceptibility of hazards, and its linkage to the evaluation of risks.

This was partly the motivation for convening the Workshop on Landslide and Karst Susceptibility Assessment on 1 March 2018 at Pulse Grande Hotel, Putrajaya. The workshop was organised by partners of the project on “Disaster Resilient Cities: Forecasting Local Level Climate Extremes and Physical Hazards for Kuala Lumpur”, funded by the Newton-Ungku Omar Fund (NUOF) under the aegis of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) and Innovate-UK. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss processes and methodologies for assessing the susceptibility of landslide and karstic hazards. This would implicitly provide insights for advancing efforts to develop a national lexicon for enhancing disaster risk reduction in the country. Key matters from the workshop are highlighted in the following sections.

HIGHLIGHTS

The one-day workshop focused on landslide and karst susceptibility assessment approaches in Malaysia and the UK, commencing with a discussion on terminology. It was conducted primarily by geoscientists from the British Geological Survey with support from the Department of Mineral and Geoscience Malaysia (JMG) and other NUOF project partners. A total of 67 participants from various local organisations attended the workshop. This included officials from the City Hall of Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) and State Disaster Management Unit of Selangor as well as geoscientists from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), University of Malaya (UM), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM), Institute of Geology Malaysia (IGM). Also present were representatives of the private sector.

Susceptibility maps delineate areas where a hazard event could occur. The susceptibility of an area depends on contributing surficial and subsurface factors as well as processes that vary depending on the hazard. The methods used for assessing susceptibility depends greatly on the objective and scale of the evaluation, type of hazard, size and complexity of the area, resource allocation and, most importantly, the availability of spatial and non-spatial data (Arnhard & Reeves, 2018). Susceptibility maps must be subjected to spatial and temporal validation to ensure that the product is of high quality. Emphasis on analysis of appropriate input data, integration of geological and structural geology information and inclusion of expert opinions are also important for quality assurance. The operational definition of susceptibility at the national level should be harmonised with current terminologies used in the global policy domain. Terms such as disaster risk, exposure, hazard, hazardous event and vulnerability, should also be clarified and linked to susceptibility for

improved understanding of geoscientists in Malaysia. The definition of susceptibility should emphasise the spatial component and take into account approaches that are currently being used to assess both fast and slow-onset hazards in the country. It is imperative that approaches adopted for susceptibility assessments result in products that remain valid in a changing climate.

In the UK, the national landslide inventory was initially produced in the 1990s, and currently, it has over 17,300 records of landslides and man-made engineered slope failures, with continuous addition of data (Reeves, 2018). Information in the landslide inventory includes, among others, the name and location of events, dimensions, type and style, material, age, cause, wider slope information, adjacent slope factors (angle, height, vegetation), damage caused by landslide, geology (only if vertical slope, or if map cannot be obtained), fatalities and injuries as well as costs. The source of the information includes BGS geological maps (historic and current), reports (confidential and mainstream), peer-reviewed journal papers and conference proceedings, regional and responsive surveys, graduate thesis, mainstream and social media reports as well as local government offices, among others. The national landslide inventory serves as the backbone to a variety of important landslide susceptibility projects in the UK. Susceptibility maps have been produced at the national level for using a heuristic/expert judgement-based approach while detailed assessment used bivariate statistical analysis. Susceptibility assessment has potential for rotational and translational failure but needs more work for debris flows, rock falls and earth flows. The UK is now advancing from static susceptibility modelling to dynamic landslide forecasting. A range of forecast scenarios for precipitation feeds into a water balance model to produce probabilistic landslide hazard assessment, based on the probability of exceeding a threshold.

Landslide susceptibility assessment in Malaysia commences with the preparation of an inventory, followed



Dr. Helen Reeves, Dr. Christian Arnhard and Dr. Vanessa Banks (front row on the left) shared the experience of BGS in producing reliable landslide and karst susceptibility maps for the UK.

by classification of causal parameters, analysis of susceptibility and validation of results (Tating, 2018). The landslide assessment of Sepangar, Kota Kinabalu drew on an inventory of the occurrence and extent of landslides as well relevant factors that influence susceptibility, obtained from multiple sources including aerial photographs, satellite imagery, LiDAR, historical records and extensive field investigation. Causal parameters mapped include slope aspect, slope gradient, elevation, lithology, landuse, etc. Statistical bivariate analysis (information value method) and heuristic methods were used to yield a landslide susceptibility map of the area. Susceptibility assessment in Malaysia is limited to static modelling. The rainfall forecasts are not sufficiently advanced to facilitate dynamic landslide forecasting. Work led by the Malaysian Meteorology Department (MMD) and University of Cambridge is now ongoing under the NUOF project to develop the first mesoscale weather forecasting model for Kuala Lumpur. The products from this model, particularly for rainfall is expected to improve landslide assessment at the local level and lay the groundwork for dynamic landslide forecasting.

Karst susceptibility assessment is much more advanced in the UK compared to Malaysia. In the UK, karstic rocks are separated into five categories centred on age and characteristics (Banks, 2018). Maps, cave surveys and local knowledge enable further differentiation based on superficial deposit domains, thickness and permeability and glacial limit, which form the basis for a susceptibility assessment. There are many challenges in assessing karst susceptibility in Malaysia. These include clarification of karst terminology, processes and structural complexity as well as development of event inventories and methodologies for karstic hazard assessment. For example, the understanding of processes and conditioning factors for the Kuala Lumpur Limestone is challenged by limited information, particularly on subsurface conditions. The resolution of these issues require strong national leadership, particularly from the JMG to bring together geoscientists and other experts from government, universities and the private sector. This is currently being undertaken with support from the NUOF project.

The NUOF project is designed to adapt and test the viability of carefully selected meteorological and hazard models for tropical circumstances, and to integrate them into a multi-hazard platform designed for managing and communicating risk and enhancing disaster resilience in a changing climate. The project jointly led by SEADPRI-UKM and University of Cambridge, in partnership with

JMG, UM, GSM, BGS, MMD and other entities in the UK and Malaysia can serve as the avenue for advancing local level susceptibility assessments in Kuala Lumpur. The approach could then be replicated in other cities, towns and settlements to enhance disaster resilience in the country.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

There is urgent need for a national lexicon on disaster risk reduction in the country, which is in harmony with current global terminologies in the policy domain. An operational definition of susceptibility should be developed and linked to common terms such as disaster risk, exposure, hazard, hazardous event and vulnerability. There is room for further improvement of hazard susceptibility maps in the country, particularly at the local level. The possibility of advancing from static susceptibility modelling to dynamic landslide forecasting based on the probability of exceeding rainfall thresholds merits investigation. A national level initiative is required to develop comprehensive event inventories and methodologies for karstic hazard assessment in the country. Approaches adopted for susceptibility assessments in Malaysia should be carefully developed to yield products that remain valid in a changing climate. The project on “Disaster Resilient Cities: Forecasting Local Level Climate Extremes and Physical Hazards for Kuala Lumpur”, funded by NUOF, will lay the pathway to resolve these issues and enhance disaster resilience in the country.

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Chairman's Lecture No. 23

Engineering Geology in Malaysia – Some case histories

Tan Boon Kong

Date: 10 January 2018

Venue: Department of Geology, University of Malaya

This talk was presented by Sdr. Tan Boon Kong on 10th January, 2018 at the Department of Geology, University of Malaya, as Chairman's Lecture No. 23. The talk was presented as a Special Lecture at the recent GSM NGC 2017, October 2017. An abstract of the talk is attached below.

As usual, there was a lively discussion session following the presentation.

Tan Boon Kong,

Chairman, W/G on Engineering Geology & Environmental Geology.

Abstract: Engineering geology deals with the application of geology to civil engineering and construction works. The fundamental input in engineering geology would involve, among other things, studies on the lithologies, geologic structures and weathering grades of the rock masses since together they determine the characteristics and behaviours of the rock masses. In addition, project-specific requirements and problems need to be addressed.

This lecture presents several case histories on Engineering Geology in Malaysia such as: Foundations in Limestone Bedrock, Limestone Cliff Stability, Rock Slope Stability, Dams, Tunnels, Riverbank Instability, Slope Failure due to Rapid Draw-down, Urban Geology & Hillside Development, and Airports. The various case histories presented here are based mainly on the author's ~35 years of past practice and experiences. Previous papers covering various case studies in engineering geology include Tan (1999, 2004, 2007, 2016 and 2017). Figures 1-6 show some examples of these case histories.

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Figure 1: Limestone bedrock pinnacle, Sunway, Kuala Lumpur.



Figure 2: Limestone cliff, Batu Caves, Kuala Lumpur.



Figure 3: Slope failure in graphitic schist soils, Air Keroh.



Figure 4: Diversion tunnel in granite, Sg. Selangor.



Figure 5: Slope failure due to rapid draw-down.



Figure 6: Slope failure associated with housing project in hilly terrain, KL.

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64. Noor Sahidah Mohamad Khalim
65. Nor Ikram Jamil
66. Nor Intan Shazlin Mohamad Rojali
67. Norfatena Mahmud

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69. Norsyafiqah Salimun
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71. Nur 'Aishah Zarime
72. Nur Amanina Jeffri
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75. Nur Diyana Yahya
76. Nur Haikal Nordin
77. Nur Jannatul Syukrina Mohd Soffian
78. Nur Muhammad Asyraf Mansor
79. Nur Syafiqah Mohd Daud
80. Nur Syafiqah Idayu Azmi
81. Nur Syahirah Zulaikha Romli
82. Nur Syamimi Jumari
83. Nur Syazwani Izzati Abdul Rahim
84. Nur Syazwina Najaa Abd Ghani
85. Nurhajeerah Mhd Hanapiah
86. Nurul Adilah Manshor
87. Nurul Afifah Mohd Radzir
88. Nurul Amaniyah Romanah
89. Nurul Fatihah Abdul Nasir
90. Nurul Haziqah Hipni
91. Nurul Nabilah Ibrahim
92. Nurul Najiha Norazmi
93. Nurul Syazana Mat
94. Nurush Syahadah Mahmud
95. Ong Qing Wei
96. Rasliza Abd Razak
97. Rossilawati Ramli
98. Sangeet Kaur Darshen Singh
99. Sanggithash Sinnasamy
100. Santhiavathi Ramasamy
101. Shadishwaren Parameswaran
102. Siti Nadzirah Nazri
103. Siti Aisyah Pazim @ Fadzim
104. Siti Juliana Johari
105. Siti Nor Fasiah Che Daud
106. Siti Syahirah Thaqifah Masor
107. Syazreen Syafiqah Azmi
108. Syed Nazim Syed Sabeer Ali
109. Tan Carel
110. Tan Jia Q
111. Tan Pei Shi
112. Thivineshvaren Elanggovan
113. Tuan Nor Uzma Tuan Yazid
114. Umadevy Selva Kumaran
115. Vritnney Suzie John
116. Wan Nur Syahirah W Abd Muhaimi
117. Wan Nursyafiqah Wan Jusoh
118. Wong Jing Ee, Veronica
119. Zuhairah Mohd Fuzi

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Malliga Palaniapan
1, Jalan Sutera 1
Jalil Sutera, Bandar Bukit Jalil
57000 Kuala Lumpur

Nuriffah Izzah Ahmad Samsudin
No. 31, Jalan Putra Permai 10/4B,
Seksyen 10, Putra Heights,
47650 Subang Jaya
Selangor

Dear Members

Please update your contact details by sending your email address, telephone no. and fax no. to :
geologicalsociety@gmail.com

NrgTalk with Dr Mazlan Madon, Immediate Past-President of the Geological Society of Malaysia

Article published by NrgEdge on 31 January 2018
<https://www.nrgedge.net/article/1517366522-nrgtalk-with-dr-mazlan-madon>



NrgEdge interviews Dr Mazlan Madon who is an independent geologist. He is also involved as a member of Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and Academy of Sciences Malaysia. A passionate geologist with vast experience, Dr Mazlan Madon is considered among the top Geology experts.



1) You are someone who has taken up many geologist positions with Petronas over the years. Are you able to share with us what kept your passion burning in order for you to be in the industry for more than 30 years?

I consider the many positions that I was appointed to during my service with Petronas were merely following the “natural” course of a career progression, starting as a trainee geologist in 1984 to the penultimate technical position of “Custodian” in 2007. Since then I had held various Custodian positions within different parts of the organisation, doing slightly different things but essentially the same role. Whether one considers a span of 23 years to reach the “top” to be slow, ‘average’, or fast, is a different question altogether. I think, for me to have stayed in the same industry for more than 30 years is not unusual, especially in the oil/gas industry. A more interesting question that people often asked is what kept me going for so long in the same company. The simple answer is my passion for geology. It is fair to say that I care more about geology as a science than its application to oil/gas exploration, because in a way, passion for the science is more everlasting than one’s love for exploration (which tends to emulate the oil price).

2) During your years with Petronas, you wrote a book titled “Petroleum Geology and Resources of Malaysia” which was the main source of reference for the petroleum geologist within the region. What was the factor that inspired or influenced you to write this book?

To be clear, the book was a team effort, and was a deliberate initiative by the management of Petronas at the time, to share the knowledge gained through decades of oil exploration in the country, with not just the oil industry people but the public at large. So a team was assembled and headed by a project manager/chief editor, and I was lucky to

be called in by my boss to work full-time on it, along with two other people. It was 1996, and I had just re-joined the company after finishing my PhD studies and I think the momentum helped, because there was an enormous amount of documents I had to go through in order to provide a balanced view of the geology of each basin or province in Malaysia, based on the knowledge at that time. I was also fully aware that as an author I also represent, in some way, a Petronas 'view' of the geological understanding at that time.

3) As we know, you are a member of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS), a body of experts established under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Are you able to tell us more on this position?

The CLCS consists of 21 members elected every 5 years from among the nationals of countries (coastal State) that ratify the UNCLOS. So, I was nominated by the Malaysian government to serve in that commission, but I serve in my personal capacity. Members of CLCS are experts in either hydrography, geology or geophysics. Under article 76 of UNCLOS, a coastal State may submit to the CLCS particulars relating to the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles. The main role of the CLCS then is to consider the data and information submitted by the coastal State in the justification to extend its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

4) The world is constantly evolving, and new technologies have been given birth in the recent years. What are the most impactful technologies you feel that had greatly aid geologists or explorers like yourself in terms of new field research and development?

There is no doubt that as far as the oil exploration/development is concerned, seismic technologies have contributed immensely to the success of the business. On the flip side, it could be argued that because seismic has been so successful as a body of technology, some managers became over-reliant on it while inadvertently neglecting the fact that a brilliant technology still requires competent humans to use it. Besides seismic, an overarching factor in the industries' success is the rapid development of computers. I still remember using floppy disks on DOS-based PCs when I started in 1984 and when the internet was still at a very rudimentary stage. Look where we are now due to the power of computers.

5) With fewer oil companies investing in exploring new oil fields in the current oil price climate, do you think this is a short-sighted move? Also how do you see the market picking-up again in terms of new exploration projects in this region?

I think it is just a normal business practice to cut back on exploration when the oil price is low, but how high exploration is going to bounce back depends on our appetite for new ideas and new plays. Bear in mind, activity was already at a low level in the traditionally mature regions, not because of the oil price but due to the higher risks and unfavourable economics.

6) In the current low oil price climate, a lot of exploration projects have been put on-hold. This has inadvertently lowered the demand for new geology talents. What are the options available for those who are specialised in this discipline? Are their skills transferrable?

It is not entirely true, or wise to assume, that due to less exploration projects, there is lower demand for "new geology talents". I would say, less exploration projects may see less need for that many operations geologists but the company would need to do more "research" to prepare for the next wave. In any case, new talents would not be put straight onto exploration projects because there is a lag time between a new talent coming in and when he/she is ready to be deployed to the projects.

7) In today's world, everything is going digital, even learning. Digital learning for geologists in Oil & Gas is now possible with e-courses, live webinars and even virtual field trips! Do you think geologist today are adapting to these new platform effectively? What do you think are the possible barriers preventing these new learning technologies from flourishing further, if they are indeed effective learning methods?

I am not worried about young people adapting to new platform. But I am not sure that they are able to absorb all the knowledge that is made available to them, in a way that will make them more productive in their work, bearing in mind their already busy day-to-day work schedule. My guess is that most people will have some spare time for one or two 'extra-curricular' endeavours outside of their 'normal' work. If those courses are remotely relevant to their work, it would not be an effective learning tool.

8) As we know, you came out with publications throughout your career. For now, you have retired, hence, will you continue publishing geology related publications to aid/educate other geology enthusiast?

Unlike a manager who loses his power and privileges upon retirement, a scientist never truly retires. When I retired,

they took away my company laptop, but I could still write. I consider writing technical articles as one of the two most important tasks for a scientist. The other one is reading. Writing is the best way to articulate one's thoughts and understanding of a particular subject in the vast field of geoscience. It is erroneous to think that a geologist who happens to work in oil and gas must write only on petroleum geology. A musician does not have to just play the blues. So, yes I will do my best to continue to write and publish articles of interest.

9) As an industry expert, you have had considerable experience as a geologist/geoscientist. For someone who's just beginning their career in the industry, what advice can you give him or her? Do you feel that youths today have more opportunities to nurture their passion and what life lessons are you able to share with them?

I don't consider myself an industry expert, but a geology or geosciences expert, maybe. So my only advice would be: to be honest in what you do, seek knowledge as truth, not half-truths, and not because your boss wants to hear it, but because you need to understand it yourself. Yes, young people are given ample opportunities, but they take too much time to decide what part of geoscience they like, before they can move forward in their career. Geoscience is a vast subject, with many inter-related sub-disciplines and topics. The problem in the way our industry has developed is to steer young people to want to do a very small part of geoscience, without wanting to or make it necessary to have a broader knowledge of the science. The result is a so-called 'specialist' but ironically with very little depth in understanding and lacking a broader appreciation of the scientific implications.

10) May I know what was the book you wrote that gained recognition? Are you able to elaborate more about this recognition and book? Do you think that the new generation can contribute in future?

It was not a book I wrote. In 2017, the AAPG, as part of its 100th year celebration, wanted to publish a book, "The Heritage of the Petroleum Geologist" which is a sequel to its 2002 publication of the same name, which had honoured 43 "pioneering and notable geologists" for their contribution to the profession. So, what AAPG did was to invite another 58 "accomplished and distinguished" geologists to make the total number of honourees 101, symbolic of 100 for the centennial celebrations plus 1 additional individual "to symbolize the passing of our deep heritage to the next generation of energy-finders". Like all the other honourees, I was asked to contribute two pages of my "achievements, disappointments, anecdotes, advice" for the next generation, and was lucky to be chosen as one of the 101 honourees at the AAPG Convention 2017 in Houston last April.

Of course, the new (meaning younger) generation can contribute, but they must do it with sincerity, honesty and passion. I was once young too, and came into geology by chance, like many geologists I know. In order to make meaningful contribution, people often say, we must be "passionate" about our work. The word "passionate" has been used a lot by managers during my time when they were trying to motivate the youngsters. But passion takes time to develop, and you cannot fake it. You have to first "like" what you're doing, before you can be "passionate" about it. When you are young, you wouldn't know where the career would take you, until you are really deep into the subject and develop a kind of "passion". You cannot be passionate if you don't know enough about the subject or the work that you're doing.

By "contribution", I take that you mean contribution to geology, as a science and as a profession. The new generation can contribute to the science of geology by learning as much as they could, mainly by themselves, through reading and writing. After all, scientific knowledge grows from the ideas generated and written by scientists for people to read. Knowledge not shared is not knowledge. Attending conferences, making presentations, and writing technical papers are all part of the contribution to scientific knowledge but not all of it. For the geological profession, the new generation should join a scientific organization or geological society where they can interact with their peers as well as with other scientists and even students to share experiences and learn from them. These can be done in many ways, from organizing seminars, workshops, field trips to formal training sessions. Nowadays, there seem to be a lack of interest in joining scientific societies, like the Geological Society, for geologists, when especially in the petroleum industry wherein the perception is that all the knowledge and training are available within the industry or company and so joining a scientific society does not bring any benefit. I think this perception and attitude need to change. Contribution to geology and to the geological profession is not, and should not be, limited to making money for the oil companies, but also for the benefit of society at large.

11) With your intention to do a forum discussion, how will you work with us in terms of moderating those discussion at our NrgGuru section?

As I understand it, NrgGuru is a platform for users to ask questions relating to the oil and gas industry. In that regard, I will try to answer mainly questions that relate to my own knowledge and experiences, and leave other questions for other experts.

University of Malaya American Association of Petroleum Geologists Student Chapter (UM AAPG Student Chapter)

2017/2018 SESSION

Event Report:

COMMITTEES PARTICIPATION IN INTEGRATED PETROLEUM FESTIVAL (IPFest) in INSTITUT TEKNOLOGI BANDUNG, INDONESIA

On 23rd and 24th January 2018, an annual International Petroleum Festival was held by Society of Petroleum Engineers ITB Student Chapter, Ikatan Ahli Teknik Perminyakan SM ITB, and Himpunan Mahasiswa Teknik Perminyakan (HMTM) "PATRA" ITB. It was a union event from two previous major events, Integrated Petroleum Week (IPWEEK) and Indonesian Petroleum Exhibition and Competition (IPEXC) ITB. This year, IPFEST was held with the theme of "Enhancing Energy Resilience through Innovative Collaboration" to propose solutions in enhancing Indonesia's energy resilience.

As one of the national student chapters, University of Malaya American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Student Chapter was also a part of the delegates to represent Malaysia. Nine committee members participated in two competitions which were Smart Competition and Mud Innovative Competition.

We departed from Kuala Lumpur International Airport on 21st January at 6 am and arrived in Bandung Husein Sastranegara International Airport at 8 am (GMT +7). On 22nd January, we arrived at Unpad Training Center (UTC) Hotel that was provided by ITB for the stay of all the delegates during the whole event. The registration started at 11 am (GMT + 7) followed by short and simple welcoming greetings from the organizer. Each delegate was provided with a Liaison Officer (LO) that would assist us during the entire event. Later in the evening, we had a technical talk and briefing session as a preparation for the competitions.

On the competition day, all the delegates departed from the hotel at 6 am (GMT + 7) by buses. We arrived at Bandung Technology Institute (ITB) which was not far from our hotel. More than 100 delegates from local and international universities were participating in this grand event and more than 10 oil and gas companies were the sponsors including well-known companies such as Conoco Phillips, Exxon Mobil, Santos, and Chevron. The opening ceremony was held in Center for Research and Community Service Auditorium (ITB) that began with a teaser video about the event. After the opening ceremony, all the delegates began to prepare themselves for the competition that was being held at different venues around ITB Campus.

As for the Smart Competition, it was held at the same building, Center for Research and Community Service Auditorium (ITB) with more than 10 delegates participating in this competition. UM AAPG SC was represented by the Ganonads Team which consisted of three members, Noor Mohamed, Gabriel Bradley and Nadhrah Mokhtar. This competition was conducted in 3 stages: Elimination, Semi-Final, and Final. Ganonads Team successfully passed the elimination round and went to the semifinal for upper bracket. At the upper bracket, unfortunately, they lose the game against ITB A team and again lose for the second chance against another local university.

For Mud Innovative Competition, UM AAPG SC was represented by two teams, which were Onyx's Team (Wahid Muhammad, Nikita Khairina, NurAmeera Nadia) and The Horizons Team (Praveena, Amanna Ainani, Natasya Alyaa). This competition format required each team to come up with the best result for the study case based on the theme given "Innovation of Drilling Fluids to Enhance Drilling Processes Considering Energy Resilience". Each team was given a total of 30 minutes consisting of presentation and Q&A from the judges. The participants were given a study case on how to create the best mud design for a particular wellbore condition. Therefore, they were required to provide and explain the drilling mud design with their own composition. Even though both Onyx and The Horizons did not get any placing in the competition, they tried their best to present their mud design and summary to the judges.

On the second day, we participated in Tour de Bandung that took place at one of the most wonderful tourist attractions in Bandung. The aim of this event was to give the delegates an unforgettable day while playing various games and challenges as well as to strengthen the bonds between the delegates. We visited Saung Angklung Udjo that was an art museum as a place to perform angklung art, an educational laboratorial as well as a cultural object typical of West Java.



Standing committees presenting UM AAPG SC.

We also watched several traditional performances such as Wayang Golek demonstration, traditional dancing, Arumba, Angklung Massal Nusantara and we had the opportunity to play angklung and dance together with the children there.

The main event at night was the Grand Gala Dinner with Sundanese Night theme that was held at Harris Hotel & Conventions Festival Citylink Bandung. It was a prestigious closing ceremony dinner of IPFEST 2018 for delegates, judges, student chapter representatives, IPFEST 2018 committees, boards of SPE ITB SC, boards of HMTM PATRA ITB, and boards of IATMI SM ITB. Winners of every competition were announced during the dinner.

All in all, IPFEST'18 was a great international event for students to learn and explore the oil and gas industry by presenting the creative ideas and innovative models to enhance the world energy resilience in the future. It was a wonderful experience and yet educative as well. Hence, we would like to express our gratitude to Dr. Meor Hakif for providing us with this golden opportunity to represent Malaysia in an international competition. Besides, we also would like to thank UM AAPG SC and the Head of Geology Department, Prof. Dr. Azman for being a part of our sponsors. Thank you so much.

Report provided by:

Nadrah Mokhtar
Standing Committee



Wahid, Nikita and Nadia participated in Mud Competition.



Presented their ideas to the judges for the mud drilling competition.



Angklung performance during Tour De Bandung.



The Ganonads Team (Gabriel, Noor, Nadrah) which was qualified until the Semi-Final stage against ITB Final year students' team in the Smart Competition.



The Horizon Team consisted Amanna, Praveena and Natasya. They also partaked in the Smart Competition.



Nadia, as the Vice Director of GIW'18 was given the privilege to promote GIW'18 to hundreds of delegates from different countries during the dinner.



Closing ceremony.



The committees during the Grand Gala Dinner.

IN MEMORIAM MOHAMAD TARMIZI MOHAMAD ZULKIFLEY

Dr Mohamad Tarmizi, or Tam to many of his colleagues and friends, died peacefully, with his wife by his side, in 12th College, University of Malaya in the early morning of 29th January 2018 at the age of 47. He left behind two young kids, both are boys age 13 and 10. He was a very humble person and a very passionate researcher. The write-up below is his recent accomplishments during his short stint as a senior lecturer at the Department of Geology, University of Malaya.



Dr. Mohd Tarmizi Mohd Zulkifley
Ph.D., University Malaya, Malaysia, 2014
M.Sc., University Malaya, Malaysia, 2001
B.Sc. (Hons), University Malaya, Malaysia, 1995

RESEARCH INTEREST

- Tropical lowland peat characterisation
- Tropical lowland peat stabilisation/ground improvement

PROFESIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Professional Geologist registered with the Board of Geologists Malaysia
- Member, Institute Geology Malaysia

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

- Study of tropical lowland peat physical engineering properties, geochemical SRA, GCMS characterization and classification
- Study of tropical lowland peat stabilization/ground improvement using mineral soil filler

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

- Mohamad Tarmizi Mohamad Zulkifley, Ng T.F., Zainey Konjing, Muhammad Aqeel Ashraf, 2016. Development of Tropical Lowland Peat Forest Phasic Community Zonations in the Kota Samarahan-Asajaya area, West Sarawak, Malaysia. *Earth Sciences Research Journal*, 20(1), 1-10
- Mohamad Tarmizi M. Z., Ng, T.F., Abdullah, W.H. John Kuna Raj, Shuib, M.K., Ghani, A.A., Ahmad Farid, Paramanathan, S., Muhammad Aqeel Ashraf, (2015). Geochemical characteristics of a tropical lowland peat dome in the Kota Samarahan-Asajaya area, West Sarawak, Malaysia. *Environmental Earth Sciences*, 74(4), 1443-1458
- Mohamad Tarmizi M. Z., Ng, T.F., Raj J.K., Hashim R., Ahmad Farid, Paramanathan, S., M.A. Ashraf, (2014). A review of the stabilization of tropical lowland peats. *Bull Eng Geol Environ.*, 73(3), 733-746
- Mohamad Tarmizi M. Z., Ng, T.F., Raj J.K., Roslan Hashim, S., M.A. Ashraf, 2014. Effects of Lateral Variation in Vegetation and Basin 'Dome' Shape on Tropical Lowland Peat Stabilisation in the Kota Samarahan-Asajaya Area, West Sarawak, Malaysia. *Acta Geologica Sinica*, 88(3), 894-914
- Mohamad Tarmizi M. Z., Ng, T.F., Raj J.K., Hashim R., Azman Ghani, M. K. Shuib, M.A. Ashraf, 2013. Definitions and engineering classifications of tropical lowland peats. *Bull Eng Geol Environ.*, 72, 547-553.
- Zulkifley, M.T.M.; Ng T.F.; Abdullah, W.H.; Raj, J.K.; Param, S.P.; Hashim, R. & Ashraf, M.A., 2013. Distribution, classification, petrological and related geochemical (SRA) characteristics of a tropical lowland peat dome in the Kota Samarahan-Asajaya area, West Sarawak, Malaysia. *Central European J. Geosci.*, 5(2), 285-314.

This Malay poem is dedicated in his memory:

Tam,

Pemergian mu dalam seketika

Namun buat selamanya

Dirimu cuma rakan sekerja

Namun naluri terasa bagai saudara

Tam,

Bicara kerja kita baru bermula

Banyak yang belum kita teroka

Kini tinggal hasrat semata

Tiada lagi dapat diperkata... terasa kosong didada

Tam,

Tuhan lebih menyayangimu

Keluarga dan rakan-rakan akan merinduimu

Semoga rohmu dicucuri rahmatNya

Keperihatinanmu akan ku kenang selamanya

Al-Fatihah

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 6-7, 2018: Geosciences Technology Workshop on Pore Pressure and Geomechanics: From Exploration to Abandonment, Perth, Australia. For enquiries, contact: Programs Manager, AAPG Asia Pacific Region, tel. no.: +65 96536728 or visit www.aapg.org/career/training/in-person/workshops.

June 16-21, 2018: Resources for Future Generations Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia. Visit RFG2018.Org for other information about the event.

June 18-19, 2018: Northeast U.S Petrochemical Construction Conference and Exhibition, Pittsburgh, USA. Details at: <http://www.petchem-update.com/northeast/>

June 25-29, 2018: International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology, Houston, Texas, USA. Visit the conference website at: <http://www.AASci.org/conference/env/2018/index.html> for more information or send email inquiries to env-conference@AASci.org.

June 25-29, 2018: World Gas Conference 2018, Washington DC, USA. Visit website at <https://wgc2018.com/> for details.

June 26-28, 2018: European Mantle Workshop (EMAW2018), University of Pavia, Italy. For more information, visit <http://emaw2018iggpavia.unipv.it>.

June 27-28, 2018: Asia-Pacific Conference, London, UK. More information at <https://www.pesgb.org/uk/asia-pacific-ep-conference/>

July 2-5, 2018: Hedberg Conferences: Geology of Middle America – The Gulf of Mexico, Yucatan, Caribbean, Grenada and Tobago Basins and Their Margins, Sigüenza, Spain. Visit <http://www.aapg.org/events/research/hedberg-conferences> for more information.

July 3-4, 2018: SEGRM Symposium on Geo-engineering (SEGRM-GEO) in Tropical Region, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. Contact Dr. Rini Asnida Abdullah, email add.: info@segrm.org for more details.

July 4-5, 2018: Automation Instrumentation Summit, Belgioioso, Italy. Further details at: <https://automation-instrumentationsummit.com/>.

July 9-12, 2018: The Potential For Groundwater in Malaysia's Resilient Urban Future Workshop, Putrajaya, Malaysia. Visit www.urban-groundwater.net for information.

July 10-13, 2018: Granulites & Granulites 2018 Conference, by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain

and Ireland, Ullapool, NW Scotland. Additional details can be obtained at the link: <http://www.minersoc.co.uk/2018-meeting-granulites-granulites.html>.

July 16-17, 2018: The Energy Pipeline Management Summit, Texas, US. Learn more at <https://events.marcusevans-events.com/energy-pipeline-2018/2/>.

July 16-18, 2018: Petrochemical & Refining Summit, Texas, US. For more information, visit: leyanad@marcusevanscy.com.

July 23-25, 2018: Unconventional Resources Technology Conference (URTeC 2018), Houston, Texas. Visit: <http://urtec.org/2018/> for more details.

August 13-14, 2018: 1st International Conference on Geosciences (ICG), under the banner of World Engineering, Science and Technology Congress (ESTCON 2018), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Further information at: <http://estcon.utp.edu.my/icg>.

August 13-14, 2018: 5th International Conference on Geological and Environmental Sustainability, Bali, Indonesia. More details at <https://geology.conferenceries.com/>

August 13-17, 2018: "Mineral Evolution and Mineral Ecology: Changes in Species Diversity and Complexity in Space and Time" at XXII International Mineralogical Association meeting, Melbourne, Australia. More details can be obtained at <https://www.ima2018.com/>

August 19-22, 2018: Conjugate Margins Conference, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Visit <http://conjugatemargins.com/2018/> for more information.

August 20-21, 2018: Asia Petrochemical Industry Conference (APIC 2018), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Details at: <http://www.apic2018.org.my/>

August 27-30, 2018: Offshore North Sea Conference (ONC), Stavanger, Norway. Visit website at: <http://www.ons.no/> for information.

September 6-8, 2018: GEO India, Noida, India. Further information is available at: <http://www.apgindia.org/geo-india-2018>.

September 12-13, 2018: International Conference on Oil & Gas, Singapore. Visit <https://oil-gas.pulsusconference.com/> for more details.

September 17-19, 2018: 10th Asia Pacific Congress on Oil and Gas Conference & Exhibition, Beijing, China. Contact: Conferenceries Ltd., Tel: +1 650 889 4686,

oilandgas@enggconferences.com or visit <http://oil-gas.chemicalengineeringconference.com>

September 18-19, 2018: National Geoscience Conference, Penang, Malaysia. Visit websites: <http://ngc2018.eng.usm.my> or <http://www.gsm.org.my> for further information.

September 27-28, 2018: Back to the Future - the Past and Future of Oil and Gas Production in the Asia Pacific Region Conference, Bangkok, Thailand. Contact Programs Manager, AAPG Asia Pacific Region, Tel. No. +65 96536728 for information.

September 27-28, 2018: World Congress on Oil, Gas and Petroleum Refinery, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Details at: <https://petroleumrefinery.conferenceseries.com/media-partner.php>.

October 1-5, 2018: Short course on Application of Diffusion Studies to the Determination of Timescales in Geochemistry and Petrology, Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum, Germany. More details are provided at <http://www.gmg.rub.de/petrologie/>

October 10-11, 2018: Seismic Characterisation of Carbonate Platforms and Reservoirs Conference, London, UK. Contact email address: georgina.worrall@geolsoc.org.uk.

October 10-12, 2018: 9th International Conference on Asian Marine Geology (ICAMG-9), Shanghai. Visit <https://icamg-9.tongji.edu.cn> for further details.

October 13-21, 2018: 15th Regional Congress on Geology, Mineral and Energy Resources of Southeast Asia (GEOSEA 2018), Hanoi, Vietnam. Visit website: <http://geosea2018.dgmv.gov.vn> for more information.

October 17-19, 2018: CYPGasTech 2018 Conference, Limassol, Cyprus. For details, visit: www.cypgastech.com.

October 31-November 1, 2018: GSL Marine Minerals: A New Resource for the 21st Century Conference, London, UK. Contact email address: georgina.worrall@geolsoc.org.uk for information.

November 4-7, 2018: International Conference and Exhibition (ICE 2018), Cape Town, Africa. More information at: <http://capetown2018.iceevent.org/>.

November 5-9, 2018: Africa Oil Week, Cape Town, Africa. To find out more, contact +44 (0) 207 596 5065/ +27 11 880 7052 or email to info.africa@ite-events.com.

November 12-15, 2018: 1st Conference of the Arabian Journal of Geosciences (1st CAJG), Hammamet, Tunisia. Contact: contact@cajg.org for queries.

November 12-15, 2018: Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Visit website at <https://www.adipec.com/>

November 13-15, 2018: AAPG/EAGE/MGS 4th Myanmar Oil and Gas Conference, Yangon, Myanmar. Contact: Programs Manager, AAPG Asia Pacific Region, Tel. no.: 65 96536728.

9th International Conference on Asian Marine Geology (ICAMG-9)

Oct. 10-12, 2018, Shanghai

First Circular

Theme: Progress and perspectives of marine geology in Asia

<https://icamg-9.tongji.edu.cn>



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SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND ROCK MECHANICS MALAYSIA

SEGRM IS A MALAYSIA NATIONAL GROUP FOR
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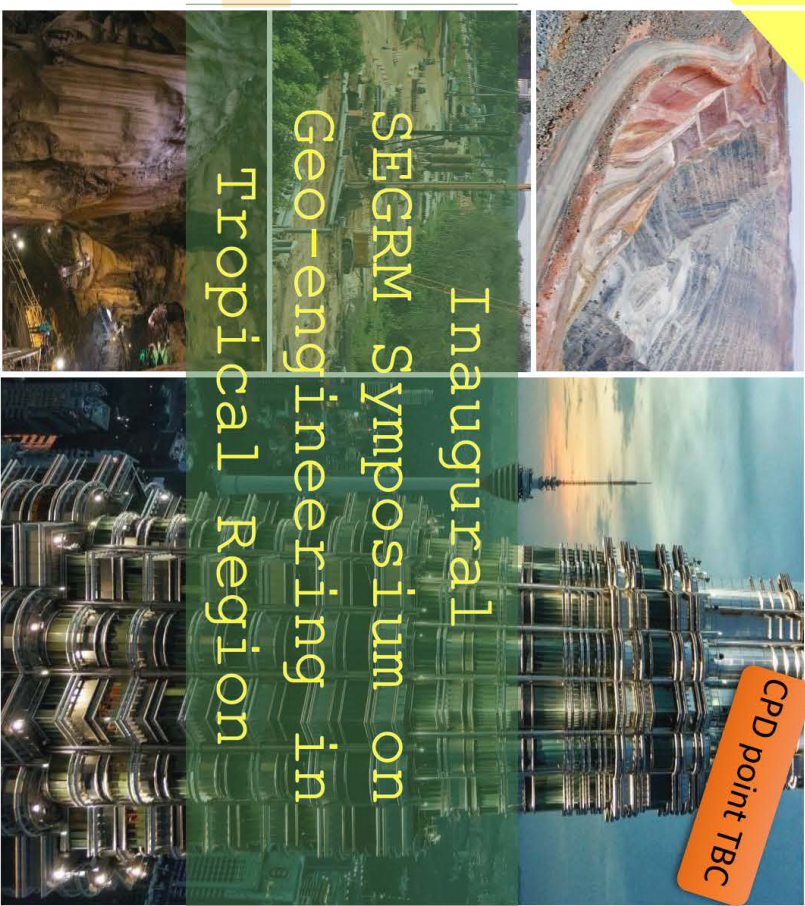
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PERSATUAN GEOLOGI MALAYSIA



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